

**Federation of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Conference  
(FAOMRA)  
November 13-14  
Orlando, Florida**

The meeting was attended by Tess Hahn L.Ac., Chair, and Jean Kutty L.Ac., Board Member. Other states represented were MA, MD, NM, W.VA, VA, and FL.

### **Visioning Session**

The meeting opened with a visioning session concerning the direction of FAOMRA. A morning of debate led to the general consensus that FAOMRA is a forum for State Acupuncture Boards to discuss regulatory issues that their states are facing. The discussion alerts other states of potential problems and a sharing of how other states have handled similar situations. If an issue arises that FAOMRA feels strongly about they will take action as an organization (in the past they addressed modular testing and licenser by endorsement).

Each meeting will allow time to hear directly from the National Certification Committee (NCCAOM), the Accreditation Committee and the national professional organizations. There was discussion concerning increasing membership, allowing honorary board members to hold office, updating the website, and following up on the guidelines sent to all states encouraging licenser by endorsement.

### **State Issues**

#### **1) Continuing Education**

MA - accepts all NCCAOM approved courses

NM - licensees must maintain NCCAOM certification

FL - accepts NCCAOM approved courses and state approved providers (indicated that there was a current problem with this). They have found compliance rate to be low so they are turning to a CE broker that the practitioner provides documentation to for a yearly fee, about \$14.50. They require Image Reading and Lab Findings

MD - requires 40 hours every two years, 25 must be directly related to acupuncture, 15 germane to the practice (business management etc.)

W VA - 48 hours every two years, 24 hours must be in Western medicine. They are introducing prescriptive rites into their bill

There was also discussion amongst states that have state approved continuing education courses. Many questions were raised as to what guidelines does one set up to approve a course and or an instructor. It is an ongoing problem. As indicated later in this report the NCCAOM is also reviewing their criteria.

## **School Closures**

A number of schools have closed in the past two years. There is concern about the accreditation auditing process. In New Mexico a school closed very quickly, the department of higher education would not accept the transcripts or archived information. The responsibility went to the State Board of Acupuncture. It was determined that NM needs to change the language in their law so this could not happen again. (It would not happen in the other states present according to their respective laws).

## **Auricular Detox**

NM was interested in how other states regulate auricular detox. A discussion ensued amongst the states that do regulate it.

## **Impaired Practitioners**

The AMA has funding and programs available to practitioners that are impaired (drugs, alcohol, mentally, physically). FL has a program for healthcare professionals that consists of a network of professional providers that is funded by the state, the state medical association and the regulatory agencies.

## **Acupuncture State Board Configurations**

It was discussed how the state board configuration differs in each state. Some boards have an executive director such as FL, NM and MD. The number of practitioners and members at large vary. The umbrella that the board falls under varies widely also, such as MA is under the Medical Profession.

## **Meetings**

FAOMRA currently meets twice a year and is considering changing that to once a year. The May meeting is the annual meeting. May 2004 is election year and states need to be present to vote. It will be held in Hollywood, CA May 6-7.

Tess Hahn was appointed as interim president until the elections take place in May 2004.

## **Accreditation Committee**

Dort Biggs, Board Member, addressed FAOMRA.

The committee conducted a national survey concerning concern having a Doctorate program as entry level into the profession. There was a significant division so no mandate to move forward was adopted. CA strongly supports the Doctorate entry level program, NY strongly opposes it. It may become a state by state issue. A task force is

being formed to establish national standards and to gather information of the issues in each state. He supports that a FAOMRA member should have a seat at this task force.

Mr. Biggs also addressed the school closures. All proper audits, warnings and action had been taken in each case. They too were surprised at how quickly the NM school folded.

## **NCCAOM**

Chris Hurley, Executive Director

The modular exam format will support the new DOM (Doctor of Oriental Medicine) format. It was supported by the states. A new point location test format is in place and going well.

The job analysis information is good for five years, then a new analysis will be done.

The Little Hoover Commission report in CA should be out next year.

Continuing Education will be addressed in January, what to accept, how to monitor it.

The website contains information concerning disciplinary action. Each state should contact the NCCAOM if a licensee is on probation, a license is revoked or suspended and they will post it on the website.

AOM Day 2003 was successful. A ¼ page ad was taken out in the New York Times and the LA Times. 30 events were scheduled, such as at schools. Website hits went from 518 to 16,000. The website provides forms and support to organize an AOM event. Concerns of certification for 5-Element practitioners is being addressed.

## **AAOM**

Gene Bruno, President

Supports FAOMRA's liaison with the Accreditation Committee.

He would like FAOMRA to write a letter for the next AAOM publication.

Suggested sending a FAOMRA representative to the State Boards to represent the agency.

The AAOM will contact supporting state agencies and support FAOMRA.

The AAOM can conduct secured surveys on-line and has offered these services to FAOMRA.

## **MISC.**

MD – a state representative offered free HIPPA training as a public service. It was suggested that we could contact our state, possibly the Department of Health to see if HIPPA training is available to us.